

# Atherton Now gets \$1 million matching grant

Donations to be matched through Dec. 31



An architect's rendering of the lobby of the proposed Atherton Civic Center, showing one of two stairs options. The lobby would access to the police department, at left, and to the administration building to the right. Photo courtesy of WRNS Studio and the Town of Atherton

By **JOHN ORR** | [jorr@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:jorr@bayareanewsgroup.com)

PUBLISHED: October 6, 2016 at 5:14 pm | UPDATED: October 12, 2016 at 3:07 pm

Atherton Now, the fund-raising group charged with raising money from private donations to build Atherton's new Civic Center, announced Thursday that it has secured a \$1 million matching grant.

Didi Fisher and Beverly Lenihan, in a phone interview, said that an anonymous donor agreed to the dollar-for-dollar grant for a period from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31.

That means that the \$72,500 raised at the Atherton Family Faire & Farmers' Market on Sept. 25 is now worth \$145,000.

"Things are picking up" with fundraising, said Fisher.

The crumbling buildings of Atherton's Civic Center complex must be

replaced using funding from private donations, according to Measure L, which was passed by Atherton voters in 2012.

Fisher and Lenihan said on Thursday that Atherton Now has raised \$5,681,577 so far and has given \$958,165 to the town in cash grants. That cash has mostly been spent on paying the architectural design firm, WRNS Studio, to develop schematics for the new facility, under the direction of the town's Civic Center Advisory Committee.

City Manager George Rodericks on Thursday said that the latest cost estimate for the town's part of the Civic Center project is \$21 million to \$22 million, including design.

Part of the Civic Center redesign includes the Atherton Library, but that is being paid for by library property tax funds.

---

Tags: [Civic Center](#)



**John Orr** John Orr edits and writes for Daily News feature pages, including arts and entertainment. He also reports on the Town of Atherton and some other cities. Previously, he was mysteries and thrillers books columnist for the Mercury News, and also wrote about movies and blues music.

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

ALL ACCESS DIGITAL OFFER FOR JUST 99 CENTS!